
Effective: March 1, 1992

96.00 Utility Accommodation

96.30 Freeways

Supersedes: Initial Issue96.32 Freeway Crossings

By: Director, Bureau of Highway Operations

Page 1 of 2

A. General Policy

New utility installations and adjustments or relocations of existing utilities may be permitted to cross a freeway.

Where a utility follows a crossroad or street which is carried over or under a freeway, provision shall be made for the utility to cross the freeway on the location of the crossroad or street in such manner that the utility can be constructed and/or serviced without access from the freeway traffic lanes or ramps.

B. Overhead Utility Crossings

Overhead utility lines crossing a freeway shall be adjusted so that supporting structures are located outside of the access control lines. In no case shall the supporting poles be placed within the clear zone. Where required, intermediate supporting poles may be placed in medians of sufficient width to provide the clear zone from the edges of both traveled ways provided the conditions of policy 96.35 are also met.

If additional lanes are planned, the clear zone shall be determined from the ultimate edges of the traveled way.

When right-of-way lines and access control lines are not the same (e.g. when frontage roads are provided) supporting poles may be located in the area between them.

At interchange areas, supports for overhead utilities shall be permitted only when all of the following conditions are met:

1. The appropriate clear zone is provided with respect to freeway traffic lanes,
2. The appropriate clear zone from edge of ramp is provided,
3. Essential sight distance is not impaired, and
4. The conditions of policy 96.35 are satisfied.

C. Underground Utility Crossings

Manholes and other points of access to underground utilities may be permitted within a freeway only when they are located beyond the clear zone of the freeway traffic lanes or ramps provided the conditions of policy 96.35 are satisfied. If additional lanes are planned, the clear zone shall be determined from the ultimate edges of the traveled way.

D. Irrigation Ditches and Water Canals

Irrigation ditches and water canals should be excluded from freeways. When a crossing is absolutely necessary, it may be made by underground siphon or through culverts or bridges as appropriate to the size of canal, topographic conditions, and highway safety aspects. Locations and structures are to be designed in the same manner as are facilities for natural transverse drainage.

All access and egress for servicing or patrolling such facilities shall be from outside the access control lines. Special ditch cleaning equipment may be allowed to cross the freeway in those cases where significant travel distance would otherwise be required to utilize grade separation structures provided a permit containing traffic control arrangements is first obtained from the department.